

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted with the filing of the above-identified application, and therefore Applicants believe that this response is timely filed, and that no fees are due in connection with this submission. In the event that Applicants are incorrect in their assumption, please charge any fee due in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-2212, Order Number 044988.030.8977.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to direct the entry of the enclosed sequence listing after the claims of the above-identified application and to provide SEQ ID NOs next to the specific sequences. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(e), a computer readable copy of the sequence listing is included herewith. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f), the paper copy of the sequence listing and the computer readable copy of the sequence listing submitted herewith in the above application are the same.

The amendments to the Specification are made in accordance with similar amendments in the parent case. These amendments introduce no new matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the sequence listing submitted herewith be introduced into the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Drawings

FIG. 8 is replaced with FIGS. 8A and 8B, as shown in the drawings submitted with the concurrently filed Request to Approve Proposed Drawing Corrections. Similar changes were approved by the Examiner in the parent application (Serial No. 09/801,676).

FIGS. 25 and 41A are amended as shown in red in the drawings submitted with the concurrently filed Request to Approve Proposed Drawing Corrections. Specifically, in FIG. 25, a diamond symbol and the text “pH 8/0.1 NaCl” is sought to be added and in FIG. 41A, the legend “Control ANS/No Protein” is sought to be added. Similar amendments were approved by the Examiner in the parent application (Serial No. 09/801,676).

The proposed changes add no new matter to the application. Applicants request that the Examiner approve the proposed corrections. After official communication of such approval, Applicants will make the appropriate corrections and submit revised formal drawings.

Amendments to the Claims

Newly added claims 54-63 are directed to data processing aspects of the present invention. Support for claims 54-63 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 67, line 1 through page 69, line 9, and Figures 37, 40, and 42.

Claims 54-63 substantially correspond to claims 54-58, 65, and 67-70 from the parent application (Serial No. 09/801,676). Claims 60-63 substantially correspond to non-elected claims 80-83 from the grandparent application (Serial No. 09/459,996, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,214,293).

Newly added claims are believed to introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

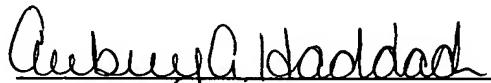
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the proposed amendment be entered and the claims examined on the merits. Early and favorable consideration is requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated marked-up Drawings

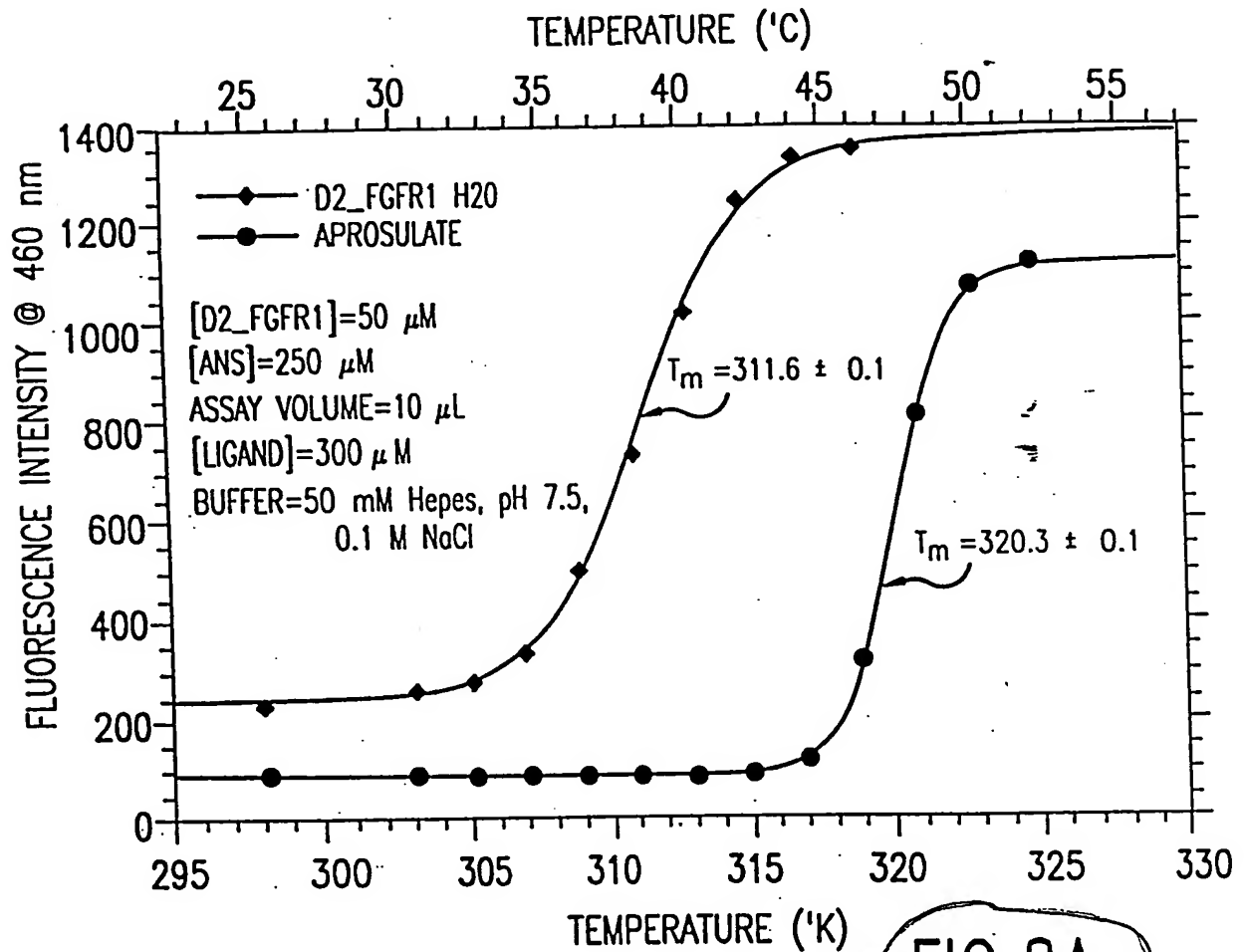


FIG.8A

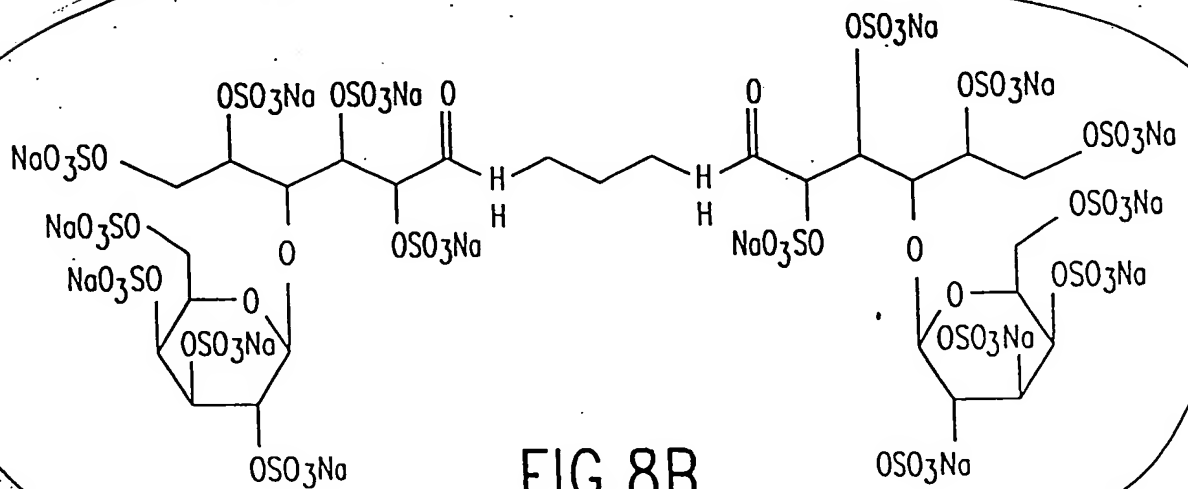
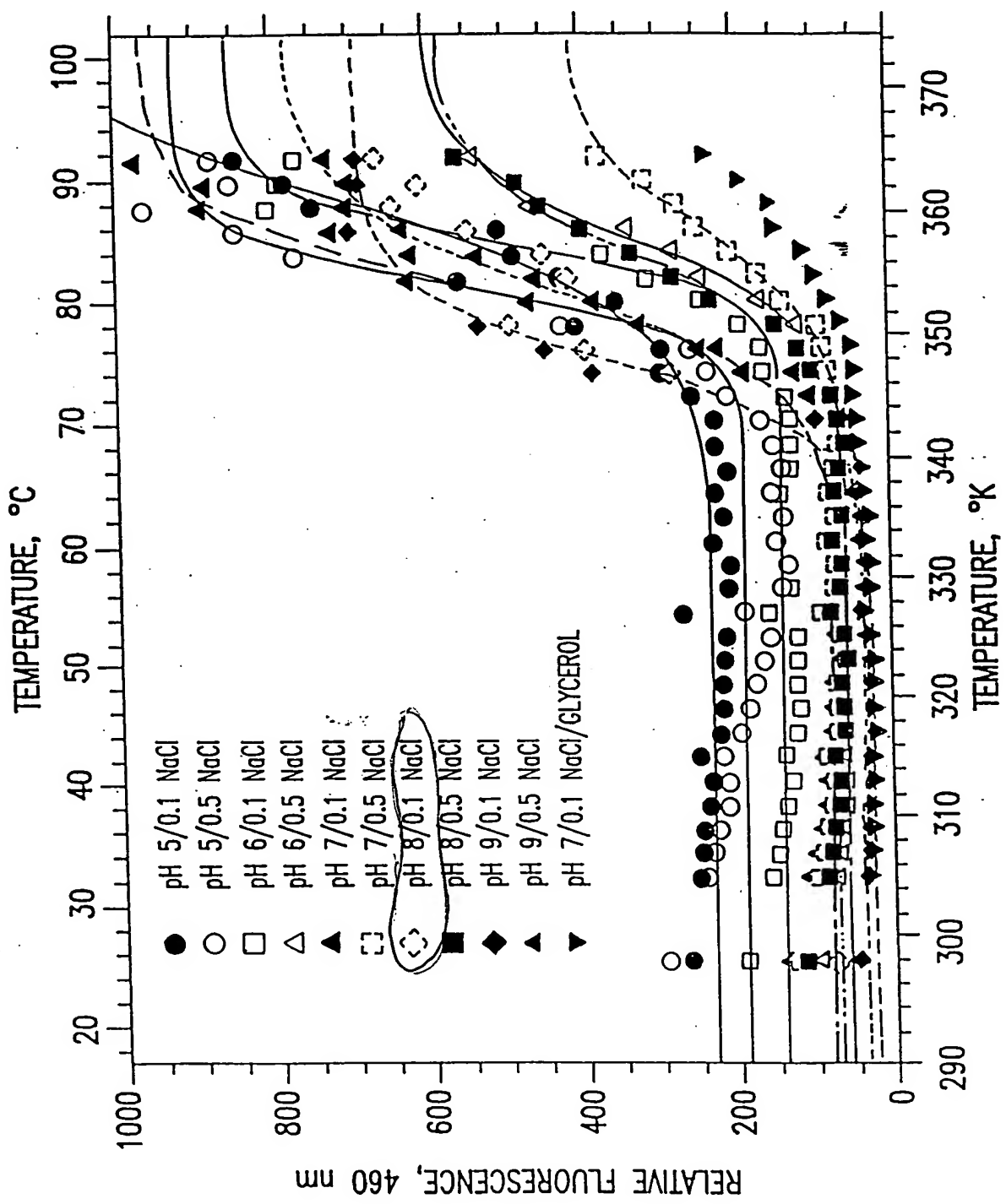


FIG.8B

FIG.25



Annotated marked-up
drawings

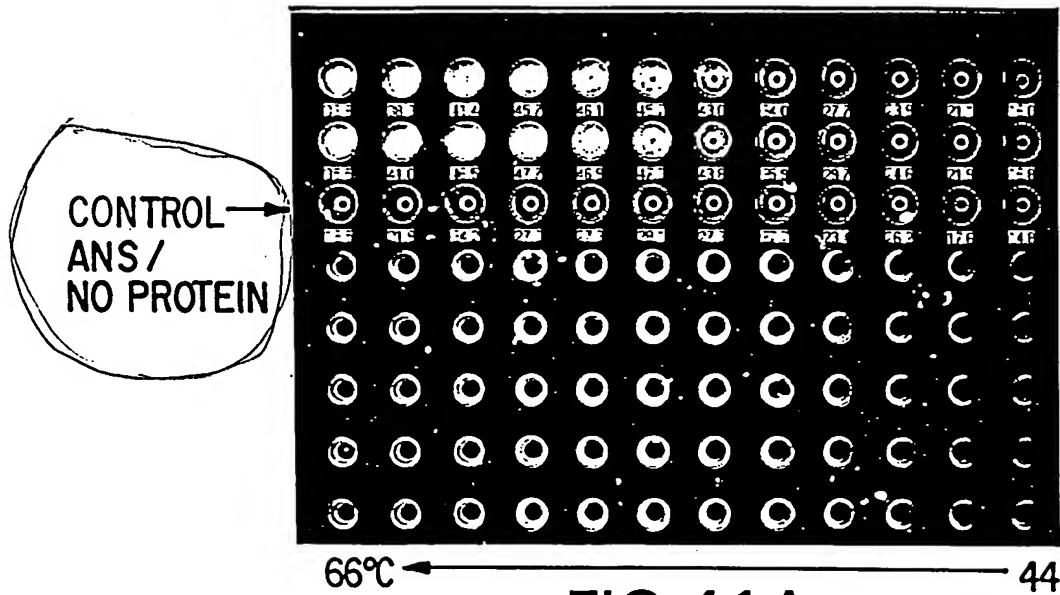


FIG.41A

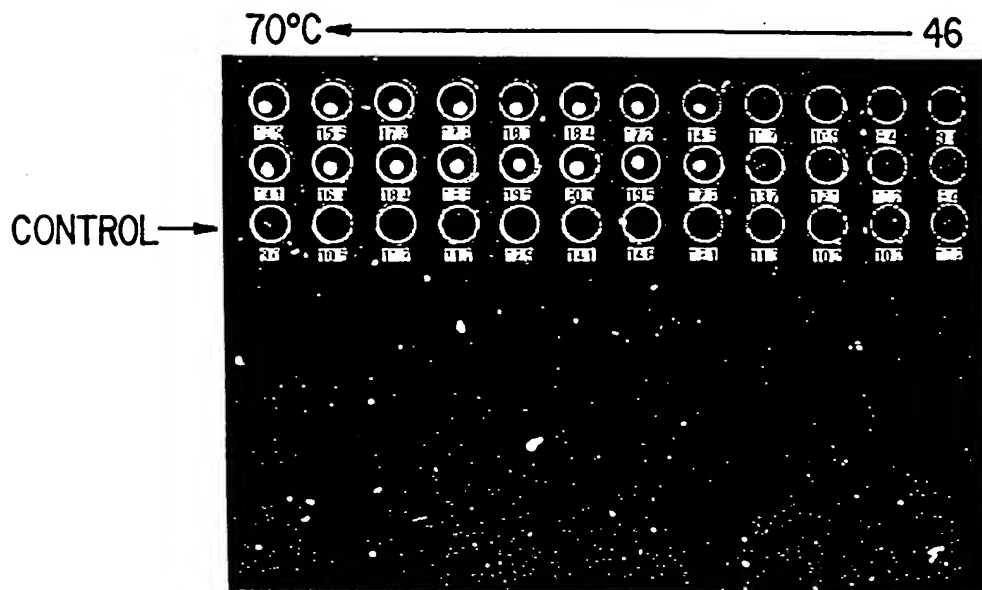


FIG.41B